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TOP SECRETNATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

January 31, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL R.J. AFFOURTIT
Executive Secretary
Department of Defense


SUBJECT: DOD Television Capability (C)

The Afghan Working Group, under NSC staff chair, has been actively working to develop a real-time television capability for use in Afghanistan. The criteria for such equipment is that it be small and man-portable. DOD has taken the lead in staffing this problem for the working group. An effort has been made to find state of the art equipment that would permit the transmission of signals from Afghanistan. DOD has found no equipment adequate for the purpose. On the basis of this survey, DOD has been urged to work with contractors to try to develop a real-time capability. It is recognized that such a capability would be of significant use both from a point of view of public diplomacy but also for its obvious application in other fields. (TS)

It would be consistent with the tasking from the Afghan Political Working Group for DOD to complete the development of this capability and to field test the equipment. The Afghan Working Group strongly endorsed DOD's efforts. It would be our clear understanding that the equipment developed by a contractor would be obtainable commercially from the contractor by media organizations (independent of the government) who would utilize the equipment for commercial purposes. In sum, this would permit the contractor to sell man-portable TV systems to media people who would travel into Afghanistan. DOD is encouraged to proceed with the development of this capability and keep the Afghan Working Group advised of progress. (TS)

Robert M. Kimmitt
Robert M. Kimmitt
Executive Secretary

cc: Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary
Department of State


Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

C. William LaSalle
Chief of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Information Agency

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